

Serial No.: 09/988,193

REMARKS

This response includes a request for continued examination.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 4 and 20 under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Kaneshiro et al. is again respectfully requested in light of the above amendments. By the above amendments, the claims are clarified to require the first part to be configured to align with the axle housing and the second part to transmit the braking forces to the housing through the first part. This amendment obviates the reading of the claims made in the office action.

Once again, applicant asks the examiner to reconsider the rejection based on the Kaneshiro reference. It is submitted that the examiner is stretching this reference too far by considering the retainer plate to be a "first part" capable of transmitting braking forces to the axle housing. It is submitted that the retainer plate 6 simply retains the brake shoes in contact with the anchor block and that it in no way transmits braking forces to the housing. With regard to the amended claims, the retainer plate certainly does not align with the axle housing so that the axle may pass through it, as now claimed.

It is submitted that the claims do not contain new matter and that the amendments are fully supported by the disclosure at page 4 of the specification.

Accordingly, the retainer plate 6 and anchor block 5 of Kaneshiro do not correspond to the elements recited in claims 4 and 20, and cannot anticipate these claims.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 7, 18, 19 and 22-24 under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over Kaneshiro. In addition to the

comments above with regard to the amendments to claims 4 and 20, it is believed that there is no basis whatever for the assertion in the office action that the claimed thicknesses would have been obvious.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication thereof is respectfully requested.

All necessary extensions of time are hereby requested. Please charge any fee deficiency and credit any excess to deposit account 50-1088.

Respectfully submitted,
CLARK & BRODY



Conrad J. Clark
Reg. No. 30,340

Suite 250
1090 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
202-835-1111
202-835-1755(fax)
August 14, 2006